

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced \$198,745 for three local fire departments through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program for operations and safety enhancements.

"Local first responders work tirelessly, many of them as volunteers, to keep our homes safe and protect our families in the event of a fire or emergency situation," **said Arcuri, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus**

. "Assistance to Firefighters grants are an invaluable resource to local communities because they enable fire departments to upgrade equipment and attend trainings without adding to local taxes. I will continue working to ensure that local first responders have the resources they need to keep us safe."

Funding awards announced by Arcuri include:

\$35,552 for the Clark Mills Volunteer Fire Department in Oneida County,  
\$152,693 for the Bainbridge Fire Department in Chenango County, and  
\$9,500 for the Guilford Fire District in Chenango County.

The Clark Mills Volunteer Fire Department will use these funds for the purchase of a SCBA cascade system, as well as new training equipment.

The AFG program provides funds to fire departments, emergency response personnel and first responders to protect the health and safety of workers and local citizens. Since taking office, Arcuri has announced over \$4.8 million in AFG program grants for fire departments in 24th Congressional District. Since 2004, the program has granted nearly \$2.75 billion in assistance nationwide.

Last week, Arcuri also announced that at his request the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will host a Fire Grant Workshop in Cortland, NY on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 and in Rome, NY on Thursday, March 12, 2009 to help emergency first responders apply for grants through the AFG Program.

Local fire departments interested in applying for AFG program grants are encouraged to call

Arcuri's office toll-free in NYS at 1-800-235-2525.

###